

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3113

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: OEI TJOE TAT PLEADS NOT GUILTY

REF : JAKARTA 2570

SUMMARY: FORMER MINISTER OF STATE OEI TJOE TAT, ON TRIAL FOR HIS PART IN 1965 COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT, HAS FILED PLEA OF NOT GUILTY FOLLOWING SPIRITED DEFENSE OF SUKARNOIST NATIONALISM. HE DENIED COURT'S RIGHT TO DECLARE HIM INVOLVED IN COUP ATTEMPT AND CRITICIZED CURRENT GOI POLICIES. COURT VERDICT DUE MARCH 23. END SUMMARY.

1. DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR FORMER MINISTER OF STATE OEI TJOE TAT ENTERED FORMAL PLEAS OF NOT GUILTY MARCH 8 AND URGED THAT DEFENDANT, ON TRIAL AS ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF THE 1965 COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT, BE RELEASED AT ONCE SINCE HE HAD ALREADY SPENT TEN YEARS IN DETENTION.

2. AT PREVIOUS TRIAL SESSION MARCH 3 OEI TJOE TAT HAD DECLARED THAT THE ONLY AUTHORITY WHICH COULD PRONOUNCE HIM INVOLVED IN 1965 COUP ATTEMPT WAS LATE PRESIDENT SUKARNO OR FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CABINET IN WHICH HE SERVED. STRESSING THAT HE WAS A NATIONALIST AND A STRONG SUPPORTER  
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OF SUKARNO, HE SAID HE FOLLOWED SUKARNOISM, THE RELIGIOUS

SOCIALISM OF INDONESIA POPULARLY KNOWN AS PANCA SILA. THE FORMER MINISTER ADDED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THAT PANCA SILA WAS BEING APPLIED BY PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN MUCH DIFFERENT WAY THAN IT SHOULD BE. HE DESCRIBED DETENTION OF INDONESIAN COMMUNISTS ON BURU ISLAND AS BAD POLICY BY PRESENT AUTHORITIES.

3. OEI TJOE TAT ALSO DEPLORED FACT THAT NONE OF STAR WITNESSES HE HAD SUGGESTED, SUCH AS FORMER FONMIN SUBANDRIO, FORMER VICE PM DR. JOHANNES LEIMENA, OR PRESENT FONMIN ADAM MALIK, HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO TESTIFY AT HIS TRIAL.

4. COMMENT: CENTRAL JAKARTA DISTRICT COURT IS SCHEDULED TO PRONOUNCE VERDICT MARCH 23. PROSECUTOR HAS ALREADY ASKED FOR 20 YEAR SENTENCE MINUS TIME ALREADY SERVED. OEI TJOE TAT HAS FAILED TO DISPLAY REPENTANT ATTITUDE PROBABLY REQUIRED TO GET SENTENCE REDUCED BELOW PROSECUTION'S REQUEST, BUT APPARENTLY HOPES THAT PORTRAYING HIMSELF AS ONLY LOYAL TO SUKORNO MAY HELP HIM WITH LEFTIST-NATIONALIST SECTOR OF PUBLIC OPINION. THAT SECTOR'S MOUTHPIECE, MERDEKA, GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO OEI TJOE TAT'S DEFENSE OF SUKARNOISM. NEWSOM

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